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# The Signal



Friday, March 11, 2005

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 25, No. 10

## News UPDATE

### Change of command

A change of command ceremony for Fort Gordon's Signal Corps Band is 11 a.m. **today** in the Victoria Room of the Gordon Club.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 W. Scott MacDonald turns the baton over to Warrant Officer Jonathan Ward.

For information, call 791-3113.

### Women's History Month events

The following events are being held in March from 9-11 a.m. at the Gordon Club Magnolia Room as part of Women's History Month:

- Resumix training – **Tuesday and March 29**
- Social Security and you – **March 22**
- Credit and you – **March 24**
- Financial Management 101 – **March 31**
- Financial Planning – **March 31** (1-3 p.m.)

For information or to register, call 791-4551.

### Prayer breakfast

Fort Gordon's Senior Leader Prayer Breakfast is 6:30 a.m. **Wednesday** at the Gordon Club. Guest speaker is Col. Jim Costigan, director of Combat Developments. RSVP by today to 791-3959.

### Red Cross dance

The American Red Cross presents "A Musical Journey Through Time" canteen dance from 6-10 p.m. **March 19** at the Reserve Center.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available at the Red Cross office and include door prizes, food and beverages, and dancing. Proceeds will go to the American Red Cross Volunteer Program. RSVP to 787-6311 by Monday.

### Auditions

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre is holding auditions at 7:30 p.m. **Monday and Tuesday** for the thriller "Wait Until Dark," by Frederick Knott; show dates are in May. Parts are available for six men, one woman and one girl (age 9-10).

For information, call Steve Walpert at 791-4389 or e-mail [walperts@gordon.army.mil](mailto:walperts@gordon.army.mil).

### Camp open house

The Girl Scout Camp Tanglewood is having an open house from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **Saturday** for girls and their parents to preview camp facilities and programs for summer 2005.

For information and directions, call 774-0505.

## Women's History Month celebrated

**Spc. Armando Monroig**  
*Signal staff*

Fort Gordon held its annual Women's History Month Command Program Tuesday at Alexander Hall, to honor American women's long struggle for equality.

The theme of the program was "Women Change America" and it began with a brief music video showing women from all backgrounds, ethnicities, ages and walks of life – from the beginning of U.S. history until now.

It brought to the audience's eyes, images of women as moms, activists, laborers, voters, astronauts, senators, firefighters, teachers and musicians.

The guest speaker was someone who herself has made history, being the first mom to become an Army general: Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and post commanding general.

Hicks welcomed those in attendance and spoke to them about women's long struggle for equality.

See Women, page 17



Photo by Jimmy Buffington

**Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, was the speaker for the Women's History Month command program Tuesday at Alexander Hall.**

## Travel card info lost

### Bank says no evidence of fraud or misuse

**Jim Garamone**

*Armed Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** – About 900,000 Defense Department employees may be affected by Bank of America's loss and the possible compromise of government travel card information, Pentagon officials said Feb. 25.

The General Services Administration and Bank of

America notified DoD that GSA "SmartPay" travel cards are affected. Officials said Bank of America has been monitoring the affected accounts and there has been no evidence of fraud or misuse of the accounts.

Bank of America is sending letters to affected employees.

"Information regarding travel card program accounts for individual card holders has been lost, and it is possible that

information has been compromised, though we don't believe that is the case," said Teresa McKay, the Defense Department's deputy chief financial officer.

The U.S. Secret Service is conducting the investigation, with help from the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

Officials said that although there has been no evidence of criminal activity, release of de-

tails on the circumstances of the loss could jeopardize the investigation.

"Indications right now are that it is an accidental event," McKay said. "The bank has been monitoring the accounts involved from the onset, and to date there has been no indication of fraudulent activity."

The information is personal cardholder information – names, Social Security numbers, addresses and account numbers – on magnetic tape. The loss occurred in late December. GSA notified DoD on Jan. 19. McKay said the delay was necessary to protect the integrity of the investigation.

"The bank is in the process of notifying cardholders of the situation," McKay said. "They will be given a special customer service number that has been set up by the bank specifically for this purpose. If (cardholders) have any questions, they can contact the bank. If they would like, they may request that the bank cancel the card and reissue a card to them."

"To prevent abuses or identity theft, cardholders can place a 'fraud alert' on their credit files," said Col. John Belser, Fort Gordon's Staff Judge Advocate.

See Card, page 9

## Mannequin lab gets new name, director

**Spc. Armando Monroig**

*Signal staff*

Fort Gordon's medical simulation laboratory, previously known as the Combat Trauma Patient System, has gotten a new name and new directors.

The lab is now called the Medical Simulation Training System Lab. Lt. Col. Jeffery Haffa is the new director, Maj. Alan Napier is the new executive officer, and Brad Sullivan is the new deputy director.

Robin Pakbaz, clinical coordinator of the MSTSL, said the name change has significance.

"(It will) reflect our refocus towards test support," said Pakbaz. "The lab was initially set up as a beta test site for the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation."

She said that testing has officially ended and they are now seeking additional testing as part of their new Advanced Medical Test Support Center.

Training such as the 91W (combat medic) sustainment training recently held at the lab is one of the missions the laboratory is used for.

The laboratory uses computerized networked casualty simulators to reproduce real-world medical mission scenarios.

The medical mannequins mimic actual wounds and patient physiology, and respond realistically to medical treatment. They are controlled and programmed through the use of computers with the patients' conditions capable of being altered during care to test the medical provider's ability to properly provide treatment.

The computers record the treatment and the simulators respond in accordance with their condition as an actual patient would.

"By networking medical simulator mannequins together, the lab provides an environment where military personnel can practice collective tasks, such as triage and evacuation and see how decisions made on the front line affect the patient's outcome in the long run," said Pakbaz.

She added that the mannequins are networked so that simulators can carry data over from one simulator to the next so that one patient can be tracked through every level of care – from front line casualty collection point to a combat support hospital.

The medical simulators respond just like a real patient: the chest rises and falls, real lung sounds, supports intubation, consumes oxygen and produces carbon dioxide, has realistic heart sounds and pulse, and responds to ad-



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

**Sgt. Jennifer Vanengen, Company C, Troop Command, and Spc. Carlos Lopez, Co. B, Troop Command, provide medical care to one of the medical mannequins at the Medical Simulation Training System Lab.**

ministered medications just like a real person.

Pakbaz said this is the place for trainees to learn and make mistakes if they are made.

"This is a way to prove to yourself that you do in fact know what you're doing, but in here it's OK to make mis-

takes as long as you learn from them," she said.

Pakbaz added that the lab enables medical providers such as combat medics to get hands-on training and that is what has a lasting impact.

See Mannequin, page 3



# Art, movie slated for weekend

**Charmain Z. Brackett**

*Contributing writer*

The Greater Augusta Arts Council’s annual Wet Paint Party and Auction is from 6-9 p.m. Saturday at The Mission on Broad Street.

Local artists will bring one or two of their latest works which they will sell for no more than \$150.

The Wet Paint Party will also feature music and food from local restaurants.

The party is an event to increase membership. Members attend free, and non-members will be asked to join; memberships begin at \$25. For more information, call 826-4702.

**MOVIES THAT ROCK**

“Movies that Rock” is a monthly film series highlighting music in movies at the Imperial Theatre, 749 Broad St.

“Some Kind of Monster: Metallica” will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

A documentary crew followed the heavy metal band from 2001 to 2003, a time in the band’s history marked with tension, bitter disputes and sessions with their on-call

counselor. The recording St. Anger was released during this period.

Tickets are \$5 each. Call 722-8341 for more information.

**FAMILY FUN DAY**

Children can learn about spinning and weaving at the Augusta Museum of History’s Family Fun Day from 1-5 p.m. Sunday at the museum at 560 Reynolds St.

For more information, call 722-8454.

**SHADOWLANDS**

While many people know C.S. Lewis for his children’s book series, “The Chronicles of Narnia,” there is another side to the man.

A bittersweet time in the author and philosopher’s life is featured in the play Shadowlands, which will be presented at Aiken’s Washington Center for the Arts.

The play is at 8 p.m. today and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday, and again at 8 p.m. March 18 and 19, and at 3 p.m. March 20.

Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$13 for seniors 60 and older; \$10 for students and \$6 for children 12 and under.

Call (803) 648-1438 for details.

# Former SJA co-authors book

A former Fort Gordon Soldier has co-authored a book chronicling Pearl Harbor.

Col. Fred Borch and Daniel Martinez, chief historian at the USS Arizona Memorial in Honolulu, wrote the book titled “Kimmel, Short, and Pearl Harbor... the Final Report Revealed.”

The work is considered the definitive “last word” on the controversy following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Borch may be remembered by many as Fort Gordon’s Staff Judge Advocate from mid-1998 until mid-2000. He is the author of many articles and several other books, including “Judge Advocates in Combat: Army Lawyers in Military Operations from Vietnam to Haiti.”

For information, go to [www.NavalInstitute.org](http://www.NavalInstitute.org).



Photo by Steve Brady

## Higher education

**Pvt. Karley King, Company B, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, talks with Buddy Maertens, education coordinator for American Military University, March 3 at Darling Hall. AMU and other schools were participating in a college fair hosted by the Education and Services Division.**

# Medics get new ‘fake’ training

**Spc. Armando Monroig**  
*Signal staff*

Combat medics on Fort Gordon got a new kind of training March 3 and Friday, at the Medical Simulation Training System Lab.

The MSTSL is a laboratory where computer-controlled medical mannequins are used to simulate injured patients.

It was up to the training participants to try to figure out what was wrong with the patients and treat them accordingly, while simultaneously having to deal with simulated battle conditions such as giving patients medical care at night and coping with battle noise.

About 50 Soldiers participated in the sustainment training and testing that all 91W combat medics in the Army have to go through twice a year, said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Fryman, noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the 91W transition program for Eisenhower Army Medical Center, and site manager for the training.

“It’s just to verify their skills in the medical arena,” said Fryman.

He said the training consisted of Soldiers evaluating and treating three casualties – the computerized medical mannequins.

One was a medical patient who suffered a heart attack, the second a nerve agent casualty, and the third was a trauma patient who had an open abdominal wound and severed leg.

“We are trying to get them prepared for combat,” said Fryman. “We need to make sure they know how to take care of a casualty before they get to the hospital.”



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

**Sgt. Elizabeth Perez and Spc. Heather Hryadil, both of Company B, EAMC, go through combat medic sustainment training held at the Medical Simulation Training System Lab. They were treating a medical mannequin that was programed with the profile of a 45-year-old heart-attack patient.**

Fryman said that following the training, Soldiers will be better prepared to cope with real world scenarios.

“They will be more aware of what’s going on and how to treat casualties,” he said. “We are trying to prevent loss of life.”

He said that because of training like this, reports have come back from overseas that up to 90 percent of casualties are surviving due to proper treatment.

The 249th General Hospital, which recently deployed to Afghanistan, participated in this training prior to deploying.

One of the Soldiers who went through the training was Spc. Charles Vital, Company B, EAMC.

“It was very realistic and intense,” he said. “It kept me on my toes.”

Vital added that he is confident that the training received has made him better prepared if deployed again to a combat environment.

Spc. Annette Cruz, Co. A, EAMC, agreed with her battle buddy.

“It was exciting. I’ve never done this before. I’d like to do it again,” she said.

## Mannequin

*From page 1*

Edward Kensinger, test bed and program manager at the AMTSC, said the changes signify the evolving needs in the medical training field.

“Kind of moving away from the research and development end and facilitating the testing of these applications,” said Kensinger.

He said Fort Gordon is the perfect place for their facility because they have access to land, troops, and an Army medical center.

“We also work closely with the Battle Command Battle Lab, for testing new communications technologies and the re-

gional training site medical,” said Kensinger.

The lab at Fort Gordon was the first of its kind to use medical simulators, said Kensinger. There are four labs like this Army-wide; the others are located at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Fort Lewis, Wash. and Washington, D.C.

Kensinger added that one of the major benefits of having a simulation center like this one is that as medical applications are developed, they can be applied to the mannequins for feedback.

He said that in addition to training done by military person-

nel, local partners such as the Medical College of Georgia, Doctor’s Hospital, Veteran’s Administration hospitals and University Hospital may use the facility for test and evaluation.

“Through partnerships here on Fort Gordon and within the community, we’ve proven the value of the AMTSC,” said Kensinger.

Also, Kensinger said they have supported and will continue to support the joint medical environment working with the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

“AMTSC fills a need for a field testing site that has all the

elements that would complement efforts to validate some of the emerging technologies in medicine, related to supporting the Soldier in the field,” said Brad Sullivan, deputy director.

“Considering the past experience that the former Center for Total Access has in technology development for telemedicine and distance learning, and considering the access to signal assets, training areas, and medical Soldiers, AMTSC is in a unique position to support the projects that come from various Department of Defense medical research and development programs,” he said.



Photo by Ronald Vanderhoof

## Good teaching

**The General Dynamics Instructor of the Year for 2004, Robert McDaniel (left), a 25Q (multi-channel transmissions systems operator/maintainer) instructor, receives his award from Peter Farrell, General Dynamics C4 Systems program manager for institutional training, March 1 at Brant Hall. McDaniel was also named IOY in 2002, becoming only the second person in the school's 16-year history to have won the award twice.**



# Become ear responsible

Diane Brady

Special to the Signal

One in three Soldiers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom express complaints of hearing loss and/or ringing in their ears, known as tinnitus, as a result of exposure to hazardous noise (equipment, machinery, gunfire and explosions.)

While Soldiers in combat environments are not able to predict all volatile situations that would require hearing protection, Soldiers here can take measures to protect their hearing on a daily basis.

**WHAT IS HAZARDOUS NOISE**  
Hazardous noise is defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration as any sound louder than 85 decibels that you are exposed to for eight hours or more for a given day, or an impulse noise at 140 decibels peak, or greater.

Steady state hazardous noise time limits decrease as the loudness level increases above 85 dB.

For example, if the noise you are around is 95 dB, then you are limited to that environment for only four hours.

Impulse noise is a blast of noise, such as a gun shot. Impulse noise alone automatically qualifies every Soldier who takes part in weapons qualifications to be entered into the Hearing Conservation Program by the Army (an M16 registers at 160dB peak).

**HOW THE EAR WORKS**

When noise enters the ear canal, it vibrates the eardrum and sets the middle ear muscles and bones into motion. These bones are attached to the cochlea (hearing organ) and when the bones move they cause the fluid inside the cochlea to be displaced. When the fluid is displaced, it moves over hair cells

that are the receptors for the sounds we hear. These hair cells send electrical messages to the brain telling it what sound was heard. When there is too much noise, these hair cells become damaged and eventually die.

There is no Rogaine for hair cells in the cochlea. It is impossible to replace or re-grow the damaged hair cells. The end result is hearing loss.

The first sign that you might be exposed to hazardous noise is if sounds are muffled or you have ringing in your ears at the end of a work day or whatever activity you were doing.

Now that it's getting to be more like spring outside, we can expect to see increased outdoor activities such as yard work, motorcycle rides, home improvement projects and water sports. Most people don't give their hearing a second thought when they fire up the lawn mower each spring and every week thereafter until fall.

But using a lawn mower can cause permanent hearing loss. This is also true for weed trimmers, edgers, power tools, motorcycles, boats, jet skis and many household appliances.

Most people say that they can hear just fine after operating the above items without ear protection.

While they may think they hear fine, over time repeated exposure to these noise levels will cause gradual hearing loss. It's not until your hearing has decreased significantly and you increasingly have to ask people to repeat things because you missed part of the conversation, that you realize your hearing has been affected.

By then it's too late to get that hearing back. Once hearing loss occurs, it's permanent. If you already have some hearing loss,

make sure you protect what residual hearing you still have. Hearing will never get better, but always has the potential to get worse if you don't protect it.

Fort Gordon's Army-man-dated Hearing Conservation Program is to ensure that safety precautions are taken to protect troops. There are several components to the program such as the annual hearing test, earplug fittings and an annual hearing conservation briefing. Many other components occur behind the scenes to ensure the program is effective. The majority of Soldiers don't realize that the hearing test and educational briefing is an annual requirement. The Preventive Medicine department is working diligently to change this and to get the HCP up to par and on everyone's safety radar.

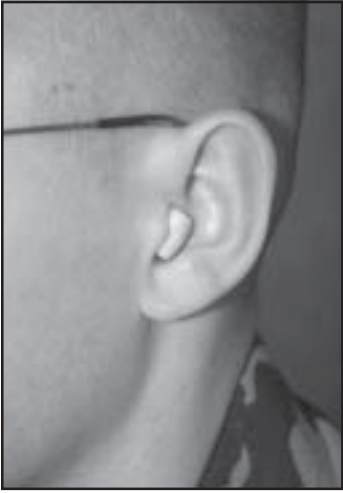
Fitting people with earplugs is easier and more cost efficient

than fitting hearing aids.

I wish there was a way to make every Soldier and civilian who work in noise hazardous areas understand just how important it is to protect their hearing. If they would listen to any of the people wearing hearing aids they would all hear the same message. "I wish I took better care of my hearing."

Make it your personal goal that you will be "ear responsible" and wear hearing protection whenever operating noisy equipment. Take the initiative to schedule your unit for a hearing test (call 787-1200) and be properly fit with hearing protection. The first step in the right direction is to wear an earplug case on your uniform and always have hearing protection available.

*(Brady is chief of Audiology at EAMC and Hearing Conservation Program manager for Fort Gordon.)*



A correct fit (*left*) has most of the foam material filling the opening of the ear, while an incorrect fit (*right*) leaves too much material outside of the ear.



Flanged earplugs, which provide better hearing protection than foam earplugs, should fit into the ear to the last flange (*left*). An incorrect fit (*right*) shows the outer flange not covering the opening to the ear.



# Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

## Loyalty is anchor to Soldiers Army-wide

**Spc. Chris Stephens**  
*Special to the Signal*

Bear true faith and allegiance to the US Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other Soldiers. That's the definition of loyalty according to the Army Values. But, loyalty is much deeper than that. Your unit is too broad of a subject in the definition the Army gives you. All Soldiers are part of a Brigade Combat Team, a Unit of Action, a company, a battalion, a squad or a

section. No Soldier is without a group around them. Each unit is unique in its own way. With each of those types of units, there's a motto, phrase or something else the unit says to identify themselves, like 'Second to None' for the 2nd Infantry Division. To me, that motto or phrase means something to the unit's Soldiers. In that unit, Soldiers have learned to become a team that can trust each other in any situation they're put in. To someone else, they see the unit as just another unit,

but not to those unit's Soldiers. Their loyalty to the unit and its' ideals go further than meets the eye. The unit means something else to them. The patch they wear on their left shoulder, and in today's War on Terrorism, their right shoulder, have a special significance. They've learned their unit's history and the names of Soldiers from that unit who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation. I've talked with Soldiers who have served with the

75th Ranger Regiment, the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Infantry Divisions in combat in either Iraq or Afghanistan. Many of them told me that when they look over onto their right shoulder and see their combat patch, it brings back the memories of the times they spent with their comrades in the Middle East. The loyalty they had not only to each other, but their unit played a large role into their lives today. Many of them said they

still reflect on what they did while deployed, both good and bad. But, most of their memories were good ones. One memory that came up in every conversation was the talks they would have with each other about what they would do when they got back home from their deployment. Even though many of them have left their comrades they deployed with, they still check up with the old 'battle buddies' to see how things are going and to see if everything turned out the way they had hoped it would.

To me, that's loyalty there. Even though they're not in the same unit together anymore, many of the Soldiers still keep in contact with a few of their buddies. If that's not loyalty, then I don't know what is. Loyalty, to me, is staying true to what you believe in and having the back of your comrades at all time, whether it is today, tomorrow or ten years from now. (Stephens is the editor of the Indianhead that serves the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea.)

## Feedback...

By Spc. Armando Monroig

### What does loyalty mean to you?



To me, loyalty is when a person is being true to their word.  
**Petty Officer 3rd Class Sarah Bracamontes**  
Naval Security Group Activity



To me, it means anything that you do or say to show respect to someone. That's what loyalty means to me.  
**Spc. Robert Carlson**  
Company A 63rd Signal Battalion



Standing up for what you believe in. Backing up another Soldier if he needs you there. Being loyal to my Soldiers, making sure they know what they need to be doing as a Soldier and they're squared away.  
**Sgt. Billy White**  
Company A 551st Signal Battalion



Loyalty is not turning your back on somebody. Being by their side no matter what. Sticking with the job no matter what happens. Just making sure that no matter what happens, you're there.  
**Spc. John Chandler**  
USAG Medhold Fort Stewart



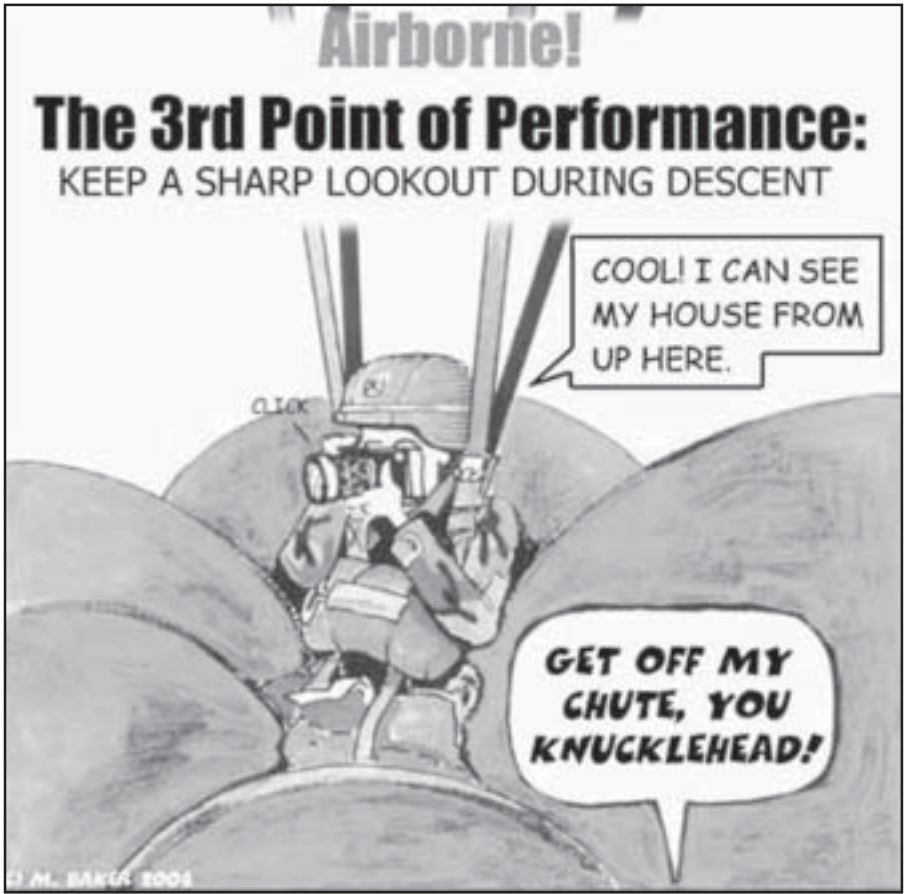
That you can trust someone with helping you out doing your job. Being able to do it to the task that you would be able to do it as well. Also, it is being able to trust someone with your personal belongings.  
**Pvt. Stephen Schofield**  
Company B 63rd Signal Battalion



Doing what is expected of you without being asked. Doing what you are told and getting it done right the first time.  
**Pvt. Anthony Wieck**  
Company B 63rd Signal Battalion

## Private Murphy By Mark Baker

*'Third point of performance'*



## Why I Serve: For all the right reasons

**Sgt. Mark Albright**  
*Special to American Forces Press Service*

**FORT HOOD, Texas** – “When I came home one day in my last year of high school and my dad had lost his job at the textile mill, I wanted to join (the Army) right then,” said Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Tommy Melson, 4003rd Garrison Support Unit. But Melson did not join then. First, he needed to help his family out. Later when he mentioned again about joining, his mother objected. She wanted him to go to college. Melson had planned on getting his bachelor's degree, going to law school and returning to his hometown of Manchester, Ga., to start a practice. The mill changed that. Melson's mother made him promise on her deathbed he would go to college, so he did. After graduating, he worked in the insurance business, still often thinking about being a Soldier. One day in 1993 he had decided he did not want to stay in the insurance business. “I had decided that the insurance business just wasn't for me,” he said, and walked into an Army recruiting office and signed up. Melson signed up as an information technology specialist and was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany, at 5th Corps' headquarters. “It was great, I was finally in the Army and I was in Germany. I got to Italy and France too,” said Melson. But he did not expect what would happen next. The Army was drawing down, so Melson decided to go into the Reserves. “I was disappointed, but I thought that I could still serve in the Reserves,” Melson said. He was first stationed with the 952nd Engineer Company, Paris, Texas, as a heavy construction



Photo by Sgt. Mark Albright  
**Sgt. 1st Class Tommy Melson at his work area.** equipment operator, he explained, for three years. “I just had not gotten the love of the military out of my system. It just wasn't enough to drill on the weekends,” said Melson, “so I decided to join the Active Guard and Reserve program. I knew that when I went into the AGR program I was shooting for a career.” As luck would have it, Melson was given his old job as an information technology specialist back and was transferred to the 344th Data Processing Unit, Fort Belvoir, Va., where he was a “cyber cop” working to help catch hackers. He moved a couple of more times while in the AGR, first, to the 145th Medical Logistics Battalion in Segoville, Texas, then to the 4003rd. The Army was something Melson had always enjoyed, whether on active duty, Reserves or as an active duty Reservist. “I would say that I joined because I like the pride and image of the Army, and stayed in for the exact same reasons,” said Melson. (Albright is assigned to the 4003rd Garrison Support Unit.)

## The Signal

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# Sergeant seeks Soldier Show success

**Spc. Armando Monroig**

*Signal staff*

A Fort Gordon Soldier with aspirations of becoming part of the Army’s traveling performance show may just make it a reality.

Sgt. Tony Cooper, a dental specialist assigned to Dental Activity, participated in the Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers talent show held Aug. 18 at Fort Gordon.

Cooper sang a cappella and wowed the audience but did not win the vote from the judges. But he did get the attention of someone else.

It was at that talent show that he caught the eye of an Army Soldier Show scout. He so impressed the scout that he was invited to audition for a spot on the 2005 Army Soldier Show.

“I always wanted to be in the Soldier Show,” said Cooper, who goes to Fort Belvoir, Va., Saturday to begin the audition process that lasts until March 20.

With assistance from Steve Walpert, Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation entertainment program director, Cooper shot an audition tape and submitted it.

He didn’t think anything of it going on

vacation with his fiancée. Once he came back from his cruise, he found out from his friends he was selected to audition.

Cooper is no stranger to the spotlight though. He recently tried out for the hit television program American Idol, making it to the Hollywood round.

Although he didn’t make it past that, he did make it in front of judges Paula Abdul, Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson.

Cooper also competed in and won the Augusta/Aiken Georgia Idol contest, beating out 1,500 other competitors which catapulted him to the national level.

“Singing does something to me,” said the 25-year-old Cooper. “If I’m having a bad day – I sing.”

He said it is a release for him and performing in front of people gives him a greater feeling of satisfaction.

Cooper has performed at Showtime at the Apollo, his church, karaoke, talent shows – any opportunity that has to do with singing – he’s there.

He said if he makes the Army Show cast, it would be a wonderful feeling to be able to perform for Soldiers, especially those deployed.

It means so much to him, that Cooper is putting his wedding on hold in order to



File photo

**Cooper performed in the BOSS talent show here in August.**

participate in the Soldier Show.

“I think I would get an extra high from that because I know I’ll be performing for Soldiers that are doing something for our country,” said the six-year Army veteran.

# Gordon Soldier part of BRAVO tour

**Charmain Z. Brackett**

*Contributing writer*

It’s been a tour of duty Staff Sgt. Joseph Madison won’t soon forget.

Since November, Madison has been part of the BRAVO! Army Theatre Touring Co., and on March 18 and 19, the mental health specialist at Eisenhower Army Medical Center will be back at Fort Gordon with the show.

“The tour has been wonderful,” Madison wrote in an e-mail.

Madison has only recently returned stateside. He, the two other performers and crew with the show “The Complete History of America – abridged” have been in several countries touring since December.

Among the stops in the show have been Cuba, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Honduras and Uzbekistan.

Performing for the troops “whether they be an audience of one or 1,000, it will be a privilege to have the opportunity to entertain” them, he wrote.

Some crowds stand out in

his mind more than others.

Troops in Kuwait braved the freezing temperatures and lack of seating to watch the show on an improvised stage comprised of two 18-wheelers parked side-by-side.

“We had one of our largest crowds we’d ever had at that show. Around 150 people

stood in the cold weather of Kuwait for 90 minutes and watched the show. It was an honor to do the show for those people. For them to give so much of themselves just to watch our show was the greatest privilege of our tour to date for me,” he said.

“The Complete History of



Photo courtesy Army Entertainment

**Staff Sgt. James Madison (left), will perform with the BRAVO Army Theatre Touring Company here March 18 and 19. Madison is normally assigned to Eisenhower Army Medical Center.**

# Fort Gordon firemen face Combat Challenge

**Spc. Junius Stone**  
*Special to the Signal*

“The training helps us do our job,” said Matt Williams, an assistant fire chief here, as he looks over the cover of Challenge Illustrated 2004, reflecting his team’s performance in a recent firefighter challenge. And that’s what it all comes down to, training and fighting as a team. So when the time comes, the team has the skill and stamina to meet and beat the challenge that arises. And that is what the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge is all about. It’s a showcase of skill, a testing arena, a proving ground for firefighters from all over the United States. Departments from towns of all sizes as well as military bases put together their teams and begin training early to meet the Challenge. From physical

conditioning to technical skills to teamwork and drills, the teams work together nonstop, building up to the Challenge that will test them and pit them against their peers in the profession, to see who comes out on top. “It’s tough,” Williams admits, “Working to keep our edge, we have to put in that much extra time and effort towards training. All of us have to set aside the extra time to prepare us for the Challenge.” But the extra time and effort is needed to give the team the edge it needs to meet the Challenge. Williams, in his 40s, smiles a bit and admits it doesn’t get any easier as he gets older. “The training helps me keep up with everyone,” he said. Also, the training serves as part of the “team building” process. It works to foster all the

intangible elements for a working team. It’s not enough for the individual members of the team to be conditioned, fit and competent in their skills. They need to be confident in each other, and have their teamwork down to where it’s second nature. “It helps me do the job better,” said Buck “Rogers” Roberts, a firefighter for the Fort Gordon Fire Department. Roberts, a relatively new member of the department, competed on the team in 2004 and is on the team for 2005. He was also one of the stars on the team in 2004’s competition. His tall, fit frame looks tailor-made to be competing against the finest firefighters across the nation. “I enjoy it. It’s the challenge,” Roberts said. However, the road to the final Firefighter Challenge is a long one. There is a whole se-

ries of competitions that each team must make it through. Each event showcases a series of relays designed to challenge the skills, prowess and teamwork of the firefighters in attendance. The events take place throughout the year, with the winners proceeding to the next level of the competition. This year, the Fort Gordon Fire Department made its mark by making it up to the “Sweet Sixteen,” the top 16 teams in the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge world championship in Las Vegas. They didn’t win the challenge, but to make it to that level in itself is an honor. “My team worked hard to get there, and the work paid off,” said Williams. “It just gives us something more to shoot for in 2005.” The event the team prepares for is a relay, with a series of events designed to test different traits. Each firefighter, clad in 50 pounds of full firefighter gear, is first confronted by stairs going up into a mock building. They must climb the stairs carrying a length of fire hose and come back down. At the next station, they are presented with a forced entry situation before picking up another fire hose. This event uses a charged version of the 1.75-inch hose they carried in the first portion of the event. They carry the hose 75 feet and then begin spraying a target, all while being evaluated for accuracy. Then, it’s on to the final station: a close encounter with Rescue Randy. Rescue Randy, a life-size “doll,” weighs 175 pounds and must be rescued for the last leg of the relay. Each firefighter must do a carry from the rear, with Randy’s feet never leaving the ground. And once he’s picked up, he must be carried 100 feet to the finish line. All four firefighters on each team must complete the task, and they are all timed. Through all the carrying, running and spraying, the Fort Gordon Fire Department bested about 50 other teams to make it to the Sweet Sixteen. Williams knows his team worked hard to make it that far, and can’t help but sound confident as he smiles and says, “We’re getting ready for the Challenge in 2005.”



File photo

**A Fort Gordon firefighter competes in the charged-hose event of a previous Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge.**

## Emergency response at Graniteville

*Two Fort Gordon employees contribute to Graniteville, S.C., rescue effort*

When the Norfolk Southern freight train carrying chlorine derailed in Graniteville, S.C., Jan. 6, surrounding communities were quick to help with the emergency. The crash happened when the freight train, carrying 42 cars, struck a parked train at a crossing next to Avondale Mills, a textile plant. Inside the plant were 400 workers on the night shift, making denim and other fabrics. The crash caused a rupture in one of the rail cars resulting in a chlorine leak. With one ruptured tanker continuing to leak deadly gas, the possibility of another leak from a second damaged tanker was realized. Emergency crews quickly responded, including the Fort Gordon Fire Department’s Hazardous Materials response team. But two other Fort Gordon employees were quick to help with the rescue effort. Matthew Wizorek, a member of the

Central Issue Facility, is a volunteer firefighter with the Montmorenci Fire Department in Montmorenci, S.C. Wizorek was paged at home at approximately 3 a.m. Jan. 6 by the Aiken County dispatch and asked to report for duty. When he realized the potential hazard to the people of Graniteville, Wizorek was quick to respond to the fire department. By 6:30 a.m., Wizorek contacted the CIF from the fire department and requested the time off since he was on emergency standby. Wizorek remained on call with the fire department throughout the weekend. Ann Marshall, lead technician at the Hazardous Materials Control Center here, was contacted at approximately 9 a.m. Jan. 6 by HEPACO and asked to respond. HEPACO is an emergency response company specializing in environmental clean up. When hearing of the immense impact of the accident, Marshall immediately asked her supervisor for vacation for

the remainder of the day and the next day. Marshall was part of the HEPACO team that established a base camp approximately two miles from the accident on Highway 1. She then traveled to the accident scene to set up a decontamination site. After donning her protective Level A suit and respirator, Marshall helped set up booms and tarps to contain the spill. She also provided emergency clean up to some of those who were exposed to the chlorine gas including firefighters, medical personnel, Avondale Mills employees and area residents. When she first arrived at the accident scene at about noon Jan. 6, the first responders were in such demand that she worked through the night until 9 a.m. the following day. She returned to the d-con site at 3 p.m. the same day and again worked through the night until 9 a.m. the following day, working an additional eight hours after a brief break that afternoon.



# ‘Living Last Supper’ staged for Easter

Charmain Z. Brackett

Contributing writer

Something mystical happens to retired Col. Louis Sylvester when he steps behind the table to take his place as Andrew the apostle in the Easter production “The Living Last Supper.”

“Since I’ve been playing that part, I’ve studied this man,” said Sylvester, who has played Andrew since 1994. “I almost feel I am Andrew. I’m taken over. Whether it’s Andrew or not, something comes over me.”

For 19 years, members of the Bicentennial Chapel have performed the passion play, which is based on Leonardo DaVinci’s painting of The Last Supper. Christ and his disciples are seated at the table. Each actor takes the pose from the painting.

Jesus has just had a meal with the men and has revealed that one of them will betray him, said Shirley Kado, the play’s director.

One by one, the characters come alive, telling about their relationship with Christ and how they couldn’t possibly be the one to betray him, yet each of the men still wonders if he could be the betrayer.

“It takes the audience back in time to a special place just before the crucifixion. They get a view of what it

must have been like,” she said.

Those involved with the play repeat it each year because of the impact it has on the audience.

“It reaches so many,” Kado said. “So many come up and tell us what has happened to them.”

Sam Shannon Jr. has played the part of Phillip from the first performance at Bicentennial Chapel.

The pose from the well-known painting “gets them in the frame of mind. They are there,” he said.

Except when the actors take communion together and when they are speaking their monologues, the men stay in their positions.

“The Living Last Supper” will be performed at 7 p.m. March 23 and 24 at the chapel on Brainard Avenue; admission is free.

The actors will also perform for residents at St. John Towers and Brandon Wilde.

For the first time, the group will travel out of the area. Kado said they’ve been invited to perform at Fort Benning.

A former Fort Gordon chaplain now stationed at Fort Benning saw the performance while here. It impacted him so much that he wanted others to see it, she said.



Photo by Charmain Brackett

From left Carol Eldridge and Irene Webb fit Michael Johnson with a beard for his portrayal in “The Living Last Supper.”

## Card

From page 1

“A fraud alert stays on a credit file for 90 days and tells creditors to contact the cardholder before someone claiming to be the creditor can open any new account or change existing accounts,” he said. “To place a fraud alert, cardholders can call any one of the three major credit bureaus.”

Those include Equifax, 800-525-6285; Experian, 888-397-3742; and TransUnionCorp, 800-680-7289. As soon as one credit bureau confirms a fraud alert, it notifies the other credit bureaus, he added.

“There are some drawbacks to activating a fraud alert,” Belser said. “A fraud alert will slow the granting of new credit and may be an inconvenience for a person who is trying to buy a home or other consumer items. Generally, a fraud alert will require additional verification of identity, to include personal communi-

cation with the consumer before credit is extended.”

McKay added that consumers should always keep an eye on any credit accounts they have. “It’s always prudent for any cardholder to monitor their monthly statements (and) dispute any charges they may question, and also it’s important for all of us to get a credit report at least once a year and look at the content of that report,” she said.

Bank of America has set up a hotline for those affected. The number is (800) 493-8444. Cardholders who notice irregularities in their accounts should call the Bank of America at the 800 number printed on the back of their cards, McKay said.

“If you are an affected cardholder, you may contact Bank of America for information on obtaining a free credit report,” she added.

## Jesus is my homeboy

1st Lt. John Smith

Chaplain Candidate

People magazine once noted that a new fashion statement of the moment was “Jesus is My Homeboy” found on T-shirts and sweatshirts. Also available was Mary is My Homegirl.

From Pamela Anderson and Carmen Electra to Springfield, Mo., “homeboy” Brad Pitt, this new “tongue-in-cheek” attire has caught the attention of the celebrity trendsetters.

Anderson, Electra, Pitt and others do not readily conjure up images of piety, nor do I think they have any intent to do so. We could blast the Urban Outfitters retail chain for selling this line of clothing and celebrities for making it trendy for image conscious consumers to consider purchasing these items.

However, that would prob-

ably just result in more people scurrying off to purchase that momentary phenomenon.

Let me be a bit more self-critical. Somehow, Jesus has been reduced to a fashion trend. Urban Outfitters is not the problem, nor are the people who buy this fashionable line of clothing.

If Jesus is reduced to the latest “vision of cool,” people who are serious about following Jesus ought to take note. One of my favorite texts is II Corinthians 5:20. “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.”

What kind of appeal is offered when fashion designers have such a limited view of Jesus that relationship with Him is merely a (poorly) designed image on a T-shirt?

I have a feeling that God’s gaze of concern is not at Pamela Anderson or Brad Pitt

(nor any other “lesser known” consumer).

God may well be staring at people like you and I; Christian communities inhabited by followers of Jesus and wondering, “How did it ever come to this?”

Animosity toward Jesus is quite understandable; that’s a standard reality in Christian history. But purporting alignment with the Son of God by means of a trendy piece of clothing? Somehow I think we Christians have some explaining to do.

Being reduced to an inspirational source for the fashion industry to make money is not what is meant by being the “salt of the earth and the light of the world.”

As we take the opportunity to engage introspectively with regard to our personal walk and commitment to our Lord, take time to share the reality of Christ (Savior of the world - not fashion statement) with others.

## Deployed Airmen, Soldiers meet with Uzbeks for early International Women’s Day event

Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol

Army News Service

**KARSHI-KHANABAD AIR BASE, Uzbekistan** – Two female Soldiers and six Air Force women participated in a social event marking International Women’s Day here Saturday.

The four-hour social in Karshi was held at the home of an Uzbek family, said Sofia Javed, linguist and cultural advisor for the Army’s 33rd Area Support Group. It was a cross-cultural social gathering with two main goals.

“The first goal was to show respect to host nation women who support the Uzbek military – wives, mothers, sisters of soldiers, officers, and others,” Javed said. “The second goal was to allow American military women to experience a little bit of Uzbek culture and the lives of their host nation counterparts.”

Javed, who recently spent the past two and a half years with the Peace Corps living and working in a village outside of Bukhara, Uzbekistan, said she spent most of that time in the company of local women and girls.

“I found them to be incredibly welcoming, caring, loving, respectful and generally fun to be around,” Javed said. “With this event, I wanted to provide a similar experience for the women of K-2.”

Pfc. Korin Denman, a personnel specialist with the 847th Personnel Support Battalion deployed here from Jackson, Miss., said visiting the family home provided some insight into how the women of Uzbekistan really live.

“The women were as interested in learning about our culture as we were in learning

about theirs,” Denman said. “They were really impressed with how independent American women are. I had a great time and I really enjoyed talking to the women and sharing about our differences in our cultures.”

Chief Warrant Officer Jody Remakel, host nation liaison officer with the 33rd ASG deployed from the Illinois National Guard in Chicago, said the women in Uzbekistan enjoy the simpler things in life.

“Family comes first and is very important,” she said. “In

America, we enjoy so many freedoms, that sometimes the family is forgotten, or we fail to appreciate our happiness because there is so much available to us. The women of Uzbekistan know they don’t have the same things as Americans, but yet they find a way to find happiness and enjoy life.”

Angella Crane, also an interpreter with the 33rd ASG and a Quincy, Ill., native, said Uzbek women are very generous and they would give their guests anything.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emily Green

**Pfc. Korin Denman, an personnelist with the 847th Personnel Support Battalion deployed to Karshi-Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, from Jackson, Miss., stops for a photo with Uzbek women during a social gathering between deployed American women servicemembers and Uzbek women Saturday. The event was an early commemoration for International Women’s Day, which was celebrated Tuesday.**

“After our meal, we all danced together, and the women are beautiful dancers,” Crane said. “Despite the differences, though, it is amazing how many things in Uzbek culture are just like American culture. We think about many of the same issues, we enjoy many of the same activities, and we are proud of the same things.”

Senior Airman Jessica Burns, a 774th EAS information manager deployed from Delaware ANG at Newcastle, said the experience here was an unforgettable one.

“Before we left the house, I stopped and actually cried,” Burns said. “This family and their friends were so polite to us, and just wanted us to experience this wonderful day with them. This event, I think, touched everyone in a little way. I wish everyone can experience an event like this one while they are over seas. It is a great way to see the host country’s way of life.”

International Women’s Day is celebrated every year worldwide on March 8, according to the United Nations. The date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday.

“When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development,” states a fact sheet at the UN Web site – [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

(Sturkol serves with the 416th Expeditionary Group Public Affairs Office.)



# Community Events

## Blood drive

The Gordon Regional Security Operations Center is having a blood drive from 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m. **Tuesday** in the 116th Military Intelligence Group conference room, Building 21720. For information, call 787-1014.

## Breastfeeding class

The Health and Wellness Center is having a breastfeeding class from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. **Wednesday**. The class is open to all expectant or new parents. Call 787-6756 or 787-2301 to register.

## Easter service

An Easter sunrise service will be held at Freedom Park on Rice Road, at 6:30 a.m. **March 27**. The speaker will be Chaplain (Col.) Albert Smith, southeast region, Installation Management Agency, Fort McPherson, Ga. In the event of rain the service will be held in Alexander Hall on Chamberlain Avenue at the same time.

The service is open to the public. For information, call 791-2876.

## DSOY award

The Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year award ceremony is 10 a.m. **Friday** in Alexander Hall. For information, call Sgt. 1st Class James Young at 791-9095.

## Yard sale

The Great American Yard Sale will be held from 8 a.m. to noon **March 19** in the four housing areas on post. For information, call 791-9536.

## Golf tournament

The Evans High School JROTC third annual golf

tournament tees off at noon **March 19** at Gordon lakes golf course.

The four-player scramble cost \$40 per player including lunch and is open to the first 72 players. For information contact Mo or Gabriele Barnett at 863-6549.

## CGSC

All Reserve Component, National Guard, and Active Guard and Reserve and Active Component promotable captains and majors who have not completed the Command and General Staff Officers Course or the Intermediate Level Education may now enroll in Intermediate Level Education as a non-resident student with the 108th Training Division.

For information e-mail Lt. Col. Mary Baker at **mary.baker2@us.army.mil** or Lt. Col. Anthony Daniels at **anthony.l.daniels@us.army.mil**.

## U-DO-IT

The U-DO-IT customer service hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday in Building 41104 (Brems Barracks); closed federal holidays.

U-DO-IT training classes are on the first Wednesday of each month for unit and activity coordinators and begin at 7:30 a.m. in Building 2222. Classes for family housing occupants are on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. in Building 2222 on 11th Avenue and 13th Street. For information, call 791-3942.

## 73rd Ord. Bn. ball

The 73rd Ordnance Battalion is having its annual battalion ball at 6 p.m. **April 1** at the Gordon Club. For tickets and information, call

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Kafel at 791-4187.

## Responsibility change

The 442nd Signal Battalion is having a change of responsibility at 7:30 a.m. **April 1** at the Signal Towers flagpole.

Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Golston Jr. will relinquish responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Vernon Praymous.

A retirement dinner for Golston is at 6 p.m. March 31 at the Gordon Club, Green Room.

RSVP by today to Sgt. 1st Class Charles Bailey Jr. at **baileyjr@gordon.army.mil** or 791-3370.

## Returning to college

Augusta State University is having a college re-entry workshop beginning **March 22** for adults returning to college. Topics include financial aid and test review. For information and to register, call 737-1632.

## Chorale tryouts

The Augusta Children's Chorale is holding auditions for singers **March 19** for children in grades three to eight. A limited number of openings are available; scholarships are available. For information and audition appointment, call 826-4718.

## Spring cleanup

March has been declared Fort Gordon Environmental Cleanup Month, a time for all area and facility supervisors to ensure areas not cleaned on a daily basis are cleaned.

Unit, billeting, departmental, training, and common areas will be cleaned **March 21** to **25**; housing areas will be

cleaned 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **March 18** (makeup date for housing is March 25). The assigned areas will be inspected March 31 by the Garrison command sergeant major.

## Scholarships available

Scholarships will be awarded again this spring to high school and college students by the Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

Applications are accepted until **March 30**.

Scholarships from \$1000-\$2000 are available; scholarships are given by AFCEA to encourage the study of engineering, math and computer sciences.

To be eligible, candidates must be full-time students at accredited institutions, majoring in computer science, engineering or related field, or be an AFCEA member.

Applications and information are available on the AFCEA website at **www.afcea-augusta.org**.

## Golf scramble

The Eisenhower Army Medical Center Health Services Auxiliary is holding a golf tournament fundraiser for the Fisher House **Friday** at Gordon Lakes Golf Course.

Entry fee is \$50 per player for the four-person best-ball scramble; shot gun start at 1 p.m.

The top three teams in two flights will win prizes. Mulligans available, 2 for \$5; prizes available for hole in one, best ball and longest drive, including a new car.

Sign up by **Tuesday**. For information call 787-7100.

## Concert

There is a Bluegrass Country Gospel Sing at 7 p.m. **today** at the Purvis Community Center between Thomson and Wrens, sponsored by the Bible Fellowship Church. Admission is free; offering accepted for outreach ministries. For information, call 651-1971.



Photo by Steve Brady

## High tech

More than 20 exhibitors participated in the annual Tech Expo, held by the Directorate of Contracting, Tuesday at the Gordon Club. Here, Petty Officer 1st Class Vicente Parra, Naval Security Group Activity, checks out a laptop computer display. More than 275 people visited the Expo during the day.



# Sports & Leisure

## Sports UPDATE

### Golf scramble

The Eisenhower Army Medical Center Health Services Auxiliary is holding a golf tournament fundraiser for the Fisher House **Friday** at Gordon Lakes Golf Course.

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The top three teams in two flights will win prizes. Mulligans available, 2 for \$5; prizes available for hole in one, best ball and longest drive, including a new car. Sign up by **Tuesday**. For information call 787-7100.

### Master's tickets

The Master's Credential Committee has made available a number of series badges for purchase by active duty military members at Fort Gordon for \$44 per day.

Active duty military personnel assigned to Fort Gordon wishing to purchase one-day badges will be required to complete an application form in Darling Hall, Room 260.

Applications are being accepted now. Office hours are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday to Friday; deadline for submission is 4 p.m. **Friday**.

A drawing will be held at 1 p.m. March 21 at Darling Hall, Room 229B to determine which personnel will be eligible to purchase one-day badges. A list of winning names for each round will be posted in Room 260, Darling Hall. For more information, contact Pat Camacho at 791-8204.

### Touring Company

The Bravo Army Theatre Touring Company presents "The Complete History of America (abridged)" at 7 p.m. **March 18 and 19** at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre. The show is billed as a 90 minute rollercoaster ride through American history. Dinner begins at 7 p.m.; the show at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$27 for dinner and show (all patrons), \$15 for show only (some mature themes, show for teens and adults). Call 793-8552 for reservations and information.

### Aquatic aerobics

Aquatic Aerobic Exercise is almost a perfect means to condition the body while reducing down time from injuries normally associated with land based exercises. Water provides support for the body's joints yet optimizes the resistance to train the musculature. Aqua fitness is now offered at Fort Gordon's Indoor Pool. There are eight classes per week, Monday through Thursday at 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Specialized events are included during the first week of each month. The aquatic fitness instructors are certified. For additional information, call 791-3034.

### Outdoor Recreation

The Fort Gordon Outdoor Recreation Program is now selling the new post Hunting and Fishing License. They are good for a year from the date of purchase. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays at the Tactical Advantage Sportsman's Complex. For information, call 791-5078 or 791-3317.

## 513th MI defeat 447th, earn spot in championship game

**Spc. Armando Monroig**

*Signal staff*

The 513th Military Intelligence Brigade basketball team hustled its way to the post unit basketball championship game by beating the Company A, 447th Signal Battalion team in tournament play, 49-42, Friday at Gym 4.

The game was tied for most of the contest with 447th taking an early three-point lead, but 513th would not give up as they continued to drive on and kept the score close, 10-7.

For much of the remaining first half, both teams traded baskets but 513th went into halftime with the lead, 22-18, as they increased the defense with Brian Burns, power forward, who came up with a big block to slow down a comeback attempt.

Both teams were aggressive on offense and defense, rebounding in the first half, but 513th had a more organized flow to their game.

The momentum was on 513th's side as they attempted to increase their lead. Vonkeith Barra, small forward, scored and in the following possession Ezzard Horn, center, scored, got fouled and hit a free-throw making it 27-18.

Louis Wilson, 447th forward, responded with two quick baskets making it 27-22. Teammate Azido Richardson, forward, followed up with a jumper cutting the lead bringing the score 27-24.

513th kept their composure as 447th rallied back from a double digit deficit, nailing key free-throws, adding to their lead, 29-25 with less than 12 minutes remaining.

But Levar Gillie, 447th guard, responded on the other end cutting through the lane putting in a nice lay-up, and then followed up with a

three-pointer, making it 30-29 giving his team the lead again.

The 513th kept their cool as Brandon Boston, point guard, pushed the ball up the court, drove the baseline and dished it to Burns who put in a lay-up, reclaiming the lead, 31-30 with about 10 minutes to go.

The remainder of the game, the lead kept going back and forth with neither team wanting to back down.

With less than five minutes left on the clock, Deunte Stringfellow, 513th shooting guard, attempted a jumper but was stuffed by Gabriel Reynolds, 447th small forward, and Gillie picked up the loose ball and made a lay-up.

On the other end, Burns responded with a three-point attempt and was fouled. He nailed all three free throws making it 38-36, 513th leading with 2:11 remaining.

After hitting two foul shots, Byron Kemp, 447th center, tied the game 38 all with 1:58 remaining.

On the ensuing play, Barra attempted to drive the lane but Reynolds stood his ground and stuffed the ball, preventing the score but getting called for an aggressive foul.

513th got two technical free-throws that Burns made good on, and then Barra went to the foul line nailing two shots making it 42-38.

With time running out, 513th withstood 447th's final surge, and with seconds remaining, 513th nailed several key foul shots eventually getting the victory, 49-42.

Timothy Lowe, 513th MI Bde. coach, was pleased with his team's victory. He said they were consistent and did the things that made them successful throughout the season.

"Excellent player and ball movement, not sitting in place, moving around, doing everything they needed to

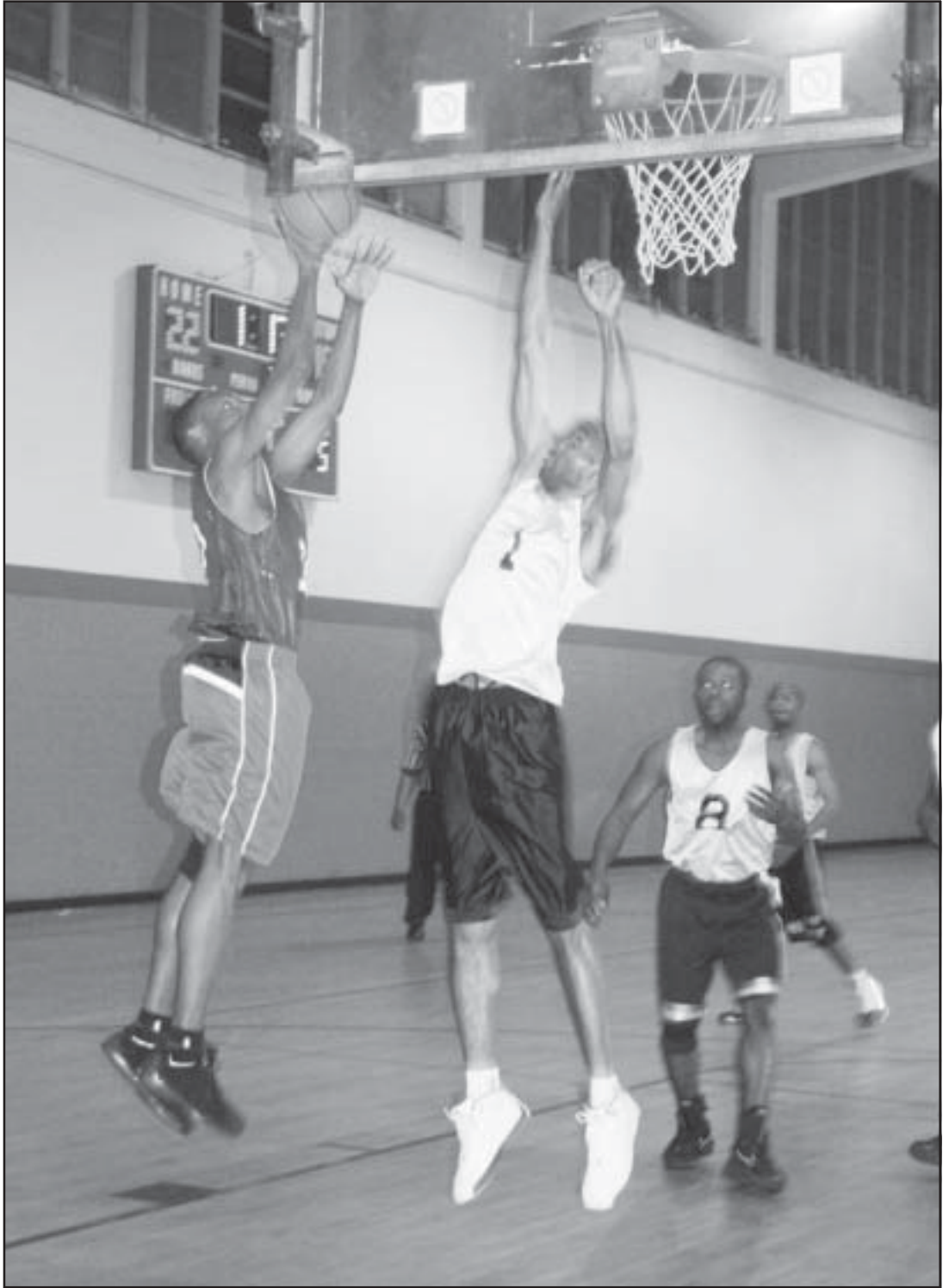


Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

**Gabriel Reynolds, 447th small forward, attempts a field goal as Brian Burns, 513th power forward, attempts to block the shot. 513th won the game, 49-42.**

do," said Lowe. "We worked like a fine, oiled machine."

He said defense was a big key to their victory, adding that Burns and Boston were played big in this victory.

"We contained them on the perimeter. They were tough in the paint, but once we adapted and shut down their outside game, they had no place to go," he said.

Lynn Kenric, 447th coach, said his team played well despite the loss.

"Some calls went our way, some didn't, but the better team won," he said.

## Cold weather can't stop soccer, C-442nd ties against A-442nd



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

**Frankie Nicko, A-442nd mid-fielder, pushes the ball up-field during play against C-447 Tuesday. The competitive game held in cold temperatures ended in a tie.**

**Spc. Armando Monroig**

*Signal staff*

Soccer players braved the chilly evening weather to compete in unit level soccer action at Field 5 Tuesday.

Company C, 442nd Signal Battalion faced off against Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion

Although there was some confusion as to who was supposed to play and when due to schedule changes, two teams gathered to engage in a bit of friendly competition.

It was a power struggle from the beginning as both teams quickly pushed the ball up-field to attack their opponent's goals.

Several attempts were made and goalies on both sides seemed to have a force-field around their goal, because not one goal was scored in this game.

There were some close calls, but great goal tending on both ends as well as consistent team defense contributed to the no-scoring event.

Early on, C-442nd appeared to be in control of the game.

But not for long as Team A-442nd seemed to have the edge in ball control, as they kept C-447th on their heels several times in the contest.

Although the game didn't end in a loss for either team, a win would have seemed much better.

Dan Walker, C-442nd coach, said he was pretty much playing

with a brand new team.

"This is their first game," Walker said of his team that consists of players mainly from European countries that study here at Fort Gordon.

"Not to mention, Alpha is pretty good," added Walker. "We've scrimmaged against them before and they beat us."

He acknowledged that they have some work to do in order to improve their play, but added that once they develop team chemistry, they will do much better.

Christopher Tison, A-442nd coach, was pleased with his team's performance despite the fact they began the game playing short handed – with only five players on the field versus C-442nd's seven.

"We played awesome. This is the best game we played all season," said Tison, adding that Rob Schuster, mid-fielder, played well taking on the leadership position on the field after he was injured during a previous play.

"He took control, distributed the ball and made the key passes that needed to be made," said Tison, and added that Johnny Martinez, made a lot of shots on goals.

He said their opponents were a tough bunch.

"These are international players. Putting a move on them is hard," he said adding they will probably meet in the playoffs.



# PLDC adapts to modern warfare

Tawny Archibald Campbell  
*TRADOC News Service*

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** – Students attending the Primary Leadership Development Course at Fort Benning are seeing new training. Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Longstreet, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, NCO Academy, said the current PLDC class is the first to participate in a pilot program designed to help familiarize NCOs with issues that affect Soldiers in today’s Army.

“We focus on things besides regular training,” Longstreet said. “(The pilot program) added various reporting procedures, requests for medical evacuations and incorporated improvised explosive devices – something we were doing already.”

A course on sexual assault was added to go along with the sexual-harassment classes already being taught. Land navigation and site training were also consolidated.

“It’s good because all (NCOs), not just those in combat arms, will know what to do,” said Sgt. Matthew Tennill, 75th Ranger Regiment. “When they go on a convoy, they will know what to do with an IED on the side of the road.

They can be the leader – step up and take control of the situation.”

Besides basic training, this was the first time in the field for Sgt. Teria Wright from Fort Jackson, S.C.

“If somebody were to take me (without PLDC) and put four Soldiers under me, I wouldn’t know what to do,” Wright said. “Everything they have added to this course is important.”

Neither Tennill nor Wright felt the program’s seven-day work week was an issue. They felt taking out the breaks helped them retain information and stay in “learning mode” longer.

“Everything goes by quicker because the weeks run together,” said Sgt. Brynton Hester of Fort Gordon. “We don’t have much time off, so the continual training instills discipline to be a Soldier 24/seven, not just as a nine-to-five job.”

Hester said he thinks the training has changed because it is “a different war with different tactics, and we need to change our training to adapt to the world today.”

The students in this PLDC cycle graduated Thursday.

*(Campbell is with the The Bayonet.)*



Photo by Tawny Archibald Campbell

**Spc. Tyesha Johnson of Fort McPherson, Ga., uses binoculars to survey an area of woods as part of a reporting procedure drill. The reporting procedures are part of a pilot program being used at Fort Benning's PLDC.**



Photo by Sgt. David Foley

**Estonian Staff Sgt. Sigmar Zelinski and Cpl. Eiko Oim take aim while patrolling a street in Baghdad. The platoon of Estonian Soldiers is working with Soldiers from 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.**

## Estonian soldiers team with armor to keep supply routes safe

Sgt. David Foley  
*Army News Service*

**CAMP VICTORY, Iraq** – One small European country is playing a major role in keeping supply convoys safe while moving through Iraq.

Each day, hundreds of trucks travel the streets of Iraq carrying cargo bound for military installations and forward operating posts.

One of the ways the Army is minimizing the risk involved in delivering supplies to Soldiers in Iraq is through a joint operation that includes Soldiers from 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., and a platoon of Estonian infantrymen.

The two units work together keeping each other safe while patrolling Gazalia Village, a 15-kilometer section of road in the heart of Western Baghdad that is known to be a “hot spot” for improvised explosive devices.

The American tank company, part of Task Force 141,

2nd Brigade, 10th Mtn. Div., doesn’t have any light infantry Soldiers, so it relies on the Estonians to provide security for tanks, and in turn they provide security for the Estonians.

“It’s not too easy to cordon and search with a bunch of tanks,” said Capt. Jade Hinman,

Co. C commander. “To have a group of Estonians who are good at what they do is like having a plate of brownies to myself.”

“It is an honor and a privilege to work with coalition Soldiers,” he said. “It is great to have another country who works so well with us.”





# Women command airspace as combat pilots

Sarah Shipman  
*Air Force Print News*

**ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D.** – During just about any given day, Ellsworth Airmen and their surrounding neighbors can witness the miracle of flight as a B-1 Lancer takes off or lands. The view from the ground has been described as “awesome” or “beautiful,” and many of them can only imagine what it must be like from the inside of the bomber.

Two Airmen here do not have to imagine; they get to live it. It is tough competition for a combat assignment in an aircraft like the B-1, and what sets these Airmen apart is that they are two of the few women in the career field.

Capt. Kim Black is a pilot with the 37th Bomb Squadron, and Capt. Bridget McNamara is a pilot with the 34th BS.

While the Air Force strives for

equality among its Airmen, women were not always allowed to fill the positions that these women do now. Congress removed the ban on women in combat aircraft in December 1991 with the passage of Public Law 102-190. But, the Department of Defense policy still prohibited women from taking combat aircraft assignments.

That policy ban was lifted April 28, 1993.

That was about this same time that Black was beginning her journey in the Air Force. She graduated from high school in 1992 and was looking into options for college.

Black scored high on the pilot portion of her Air Force Officer Qualifying Test, giving her the option to be a pilot.

“I’ve been interested in flying ever since I was about five years old,” she said. “I would take flights between Denver and El Paso (Texas), to visit

my grandparents. I thought I wanted to be a stewardess back then.”

She said her interest shifted from stewardess to pilot as she grew older. During her senior year of high school, Black took a ground course, the academic portion required to get a private pilot’s license. After she graduated from high school, her present from her grandparents was money for flying lessons. She got her pilot’s license soon after.

“I didn’t think becoming a commercial pilot was an option for me though,” Black said. “With all the required flight time to get the license, it was just going to cost too much.”

ROTC gave her a chance to live her dream of becoming a pilot in the Air Force instead. At the same time, the choices for what kind of aircraft she could fly were broadening.

“My recruiter said ‘they’re opening the door (to women for combat aircraft). If you want it, you better run through it,’” Black said.

But it was not the elite status of becoming a combat pilot that drew Black to the B-1; it was her wish to stay close to home in Texas.

She spent her first years at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, where she deployed twice. She first deployed supporting Operation Southern Watch, but not as a pilot. The second time she deployed was with the 9th BS on the six month anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

“One of my most memorable moments was when we got airborne on the jet and actually released weapons during that deployment,” Black said. “It was amazing being a direct part of the justice being served.”

McNamara also joined the Air Force through ROTC.

“My father was in the Army so I had a military background,” she said. “I decided to give the Air Force a shot because I wanted to fly.”

McNamara was commissioned in May 1996 and began pilot training.

“I had wanted to fly the A-10 (Thunderbolt), but the B-1 was my second choice,” she said. “My requirements for an aircraft were that I wanted it to go low and drop bombs. The plus about the B-1 is that it’s also fast.”

McNamara’s first assignment was to the 34th BS when it was at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

It was there that she was stationed with Jeannie Flynn, the pioneer for



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Platek

**Capt. Kim Black performs preflight checks March 2 at Ellsworth Air Force Base. She has flown B-1 Lancers for more than nine years and is currently the only female pilot in the 37th Bomb Squadron.**

## Women *From page 1*

About how women have broken the mold of what was expected of them – wife, nurse or teacher – to become so much more as shown throughout history.

“Women’s fight for equality has been an evolutionary and sometimes revolutionary process,” said Hicks.

“It wasn’t until Susan B. Anthony and several other women finally attempted to vote and were imprisoned that the long list of organized rallies, marches and speeches finally quit falling on deaf ears,” she added.

She detailed how, as the decades past, the women’s movement progressed as women paved the path in accomplishments.

“We witnessed as Army nurse, Anna Mae Hayes, became the first woman brigadier general,” said Hicks. “In the 80s we had the first women graduates from our service academies, and Sandra Day O’Connor was appointed the first woman to the U.S. Supreme Court.”

And in the late ’90s, she noted how Brig. Gen. Coral Pietsch became the first Asian-American woman promoted to that rank.

“To honor the women who have

broken ground before us, women must continue to bear the torch, to insist on freedom for women to achieve all of life’s goals and dreams with fair compensation and equal opportunity,” said Hicks.

Hicks proceeded to explain what Women’s Equality Day means to her as a Soldier and mother.

“As a Soldier, I’m thankful that the United States Army not only gives you a card citing the Army values, but it also lives by those values,” she said.

“As a mom, I’m proud to demonstrate to my eighth grade daughter that women can achieve anything they wish ... but not without hard work and dedication,” Hicks said.

In conclusion, Hicks left everyone a reminder about those women who paved the way for future generations.

“Today we honor the women who came before us, who lived fought and prevailed at a time when it was much more difficult to do so,” she said. “They changed America. They achieved a right so basic, the right to vote, that we can barely imagine a world in which we did not have it.”

women in combat aircraft assignments.

A young Lt. Flynn brought the issue of women in combat roles to a head after she graduated first in her undergraduate pilot training class in 1992. Air Force rules called for newly-minted pilots to select their weapon system based on merit and cockpit availability. She had earned the right to choose first, and she selected the F-15E Strike Eagle assignment.

With the DoD policy restriction still in place, the Air Force could not comply and sent her to teach students to fly.

In 1993, then-Secretary of Defense Les Aspin lifted the policy ban, opening the doors for Flynn. By 1994, the Air Force had seven female fighter pilots and two bomber pilots.

Today women combat pilots are a fact of life, and McNamara’s career is another example of that. She deployed supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 while at Mountain Home. Since the 34th BS moved to Ellsworth, she also deployed twice supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“In a major operation, that first combat mission is unforgettable,” McNamara said.

She said the missions that mean the most to her are the ones directly supporting ground troops.

“There’ve been many missions where we’re in direct contact with the ground troops providing support, and we can hear the gunfire,” McNamara said. “There’s nothing like the feeling of getting a target from those guys and hearing from them that you were dead on and accomplished your mission.”



# Spectrum

## Eye on the prize



Photos by Jerry Coule

A Soldier uses a compass during the land navigation portion of the 2005 Southeast Regional Medical Command Soldier/NCO of the Year competition. Thirteen Soldiers competed.



**Spc. Armando Monroig**  
*Signal staff*

About a dozen Soldiers participated in the Southeast Regional Medical Command Non-commissioned Officer/Soldier of the Year Competition 2005 from Feb. 28 – March 2 at Fort Gordon.

Thirteen participants, seven NCOs and six junior-enlisted Soldiers, competed in various events that included a 50-question written exam, an Army Physical Fitness Test, Basic

Rifle Marksmanship, Common Task Training, Land Navigation and appearing before a board.

The winners were announced March 3 during a banquet held at the Radisson in Augusta.

Staff Sgt. Osmil Sazon, a pharmacist specialist assigned to Lawrence Joe Army Health Clinic, Fort McPherson, Ga., was named NCO of the Year for SERMC, while Spc. Jamie Peck, a medical laboratory spe-

cialist assigned to Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, Fort Campbell, Ky., was named Soldier of the Year.

“We had an outstanding group of competitors who did a tremendous job,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon, SERMC and Eisenhower Army Medical Center command sergeant major.

She said the participants were very professional and handled themselves well in a tough competition.

in the MEDCOM competition for the best Soldier in the medical command throughout the United States,” said Gadsden.

Soldiers participating were from various military occupational specialties related to the medical field such as medical lab specialists, pharmacy specialists and healthcare specialists.

One of the participants was Sgt. Andres Munera, Fox Army Health Center, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.



Soldiers were tested on how to properly conduct radio communications (*left*) and common tasks such as first aid (*above*).



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

(Above) Pfc. Vivian Alcaez, Company A, EAMC, fires an M16A2. Basic rifle marksmanship and map reading (*right*) were tasks participants needed to tackle as part of the SERMC NCO/Soldier of the Year competition.

